ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

ZION * BAPTIST * ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

Fairmount Church, Red Level, Alabama,

October 17th, 1891.

OFFICERS.

J. M. Robinson.....Moderator.
Malachi Riley.....Clerk.
M. A. George, Sr.....Treasurer.

The next session to be held with Sardis Church, Butler C
Ala., on Friday before the third Sabbath in October, 1

MONTGOMERY, ALA.:
THE ALABAMA PRINTING COMPANY,
1892.

MINUTES.

The Zion Baptist Association held its thirty-fifth annual session with Fairmount church, at Red Level, Covington county, Ala., at 11 o'clock a. m., October 17th, 1891.

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder Samuel W. Raley, after which the body was called to order by the Moderator, James M. Robinson.

Sang "Amazing grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me."

Prayer by Rev. S. B. Cohran.

On motion of brother John W. Cross, brother Malachi Riley was appointed Clerk pro tem.

Letters were then presented by the delegates and read by Elders A. T. Sims, S. B. Cochran and brother A. L. Pierce from twenty churches.

The body was permanently organized by the election of James M. Robinson, Moderator; Malachi Riley, Clerk, and Moses A. George, Sr, Treasurer.

Petitionary letters were then called for: The following church presented a letter asking for admittance into the Zion Association, which was unanimously received: National Bridge, Florida, Walton county.

Called for correspondence, in response to which Elders A. T. Sims and L. B. Cohran answered from Conecuh Association, Elder J. E. Kolb from Alabama Association, and Elder C. W. Hare as a representative from the Alabama Baptist and Board of Ministerial Education.

The Moderator then announced the following committees:

On Devotional Exercises—Pastor and Deacons of Fairmount church.

On Sabbath Schools—George E. Hicks, Chairman; James Smith, John Brannon and T. R. Meadows.

On Ministerial Education—Moses A. George, Sr., Chairman; James M. Watson and A. J. Hassell.

On Missions—John T. Thomason, Chairman; J. M. Sweney, William Odom and Z. Terry.

On Temperance—P. D. Bulger, Chairman; J. M. Hildreth and A. G. Atkison.

On Finance—John W. Cross, Chairman; N. R. Stewart and Thomas J. Brown.

On Nominations—Samuel W. Raley, Chairman; J. L. Locke, C. C. Lenhart and J. W. Sims.

On Books, Literature and Periodicals—H. A. Mason, Chairman; C. S. Thomason and Z T. Carter.

The committee on Devotional Exercises reported that Elder P. D. Bulger would preach at New Hope Academy at 7 o'clock p. m.; Elder L. B. Cohran at Fairmount church at 7 p. m.

Motion made and carried that the Moderator appoint the various committees usually appointed during the session of the Association, at the present session, so their reports can be ready at next session.

Motion made and carried that a Missionary Mass Meeting be held at 10 o'clock on Sunday morning, pending which Elder C. W. Hare made a strong and forcible speech in favor of Missions.

On motion, Association adjourned until 10 o'clock on Sunday morning.

SUNDAY.

10 a. m. Association assembled pursuant to adjournment.

Singing by the body and prayer by Elder J. E. Kolb.

Chairman of committee on Missions made his report, which, after being discussed by Elders Hare, Sims and the Moderator, a Missionary collection was taken amounting to $25.26, and then, on motion, the further discussion of said report was postponed until the next day's session, to be called up at pleasure.

Committee on Devotional Exercises announced that Elder J. E. Kolb would preach at stand at 3 p. m., and that there would be a woman's meeting in the church at the same hour.

On motion, Association adjourned until 9 o'clock Monday morning.

MONDAY MORNING.

The body met pursuant to adjournment.

Singing by the body and prayer by Elder C. W. Hare.

On motion, the report on Missions was called up and adopted. See Appendix "A."

The chairman of committee on Ministerial Education made his report, which was adopted. See Appendix "B."

On motion, the Clerk was appointed to act as agent to collect funds raised under this report and purchase books for the young ministers in the Zion Association, and divide the amount pledged by churches and individuals, when collected, to enable them to attend the institute next year. Amount collected in cash to purchase books and turned over to the Clerk for purchase of books, $13.25.

Chairman of committee on Sabbath Schools made his report, which was adopted. See Appendix "C."

The chairman of committee on Nominations made his report, which was adopted. See Appendix "D."

The chairman of committee on Temperance made his report, which was adopted. See Appendix "E."

The chairman of committee on Books, Literature, Periodicals, etc., made his report, which was adopted. See Appendix "F."

The chairman of committee on Finance made his report, which was adopted. See Appendix "G."

The Executive Committee appointed at last session made its report. See Appendix "H."

On motion, brethren Malachi Riley, George E. Hicks and A. P. Brown are appointed the Executive Committee for this Association for next associational year, whose duty it shall be to employ an evangelist after January 1st, 1892, to work in said Association until meeting of next session; said committee are empowered to employ said evangelist at so much pay per month, and notify the churches, through their Clerks, the amount each church will have to pay to said evangelist.

Motion made and carried that the Treasurer pay over the money in his hands belonging to Home and Foreign Missions to brother W. B. Crumpton, Corresponding Secretary, and $10 of funds in his hands belonging to the Association to Clerk to help to pay for minutes, and remainder of funds retain, subject to order of the Executive Committee.

On motion, Clerk is ordered to have printed 500 copies of minutes, with "Articles of Faith" for distribution, balance of minute fund retain for his services.

The following resolution of thanks was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are hereby tendered to Fairmount church and vicinity for the very kind and hospitable entertainment of its members during our session with them.

The Treasurer made his report, which was adopted. See Appendix "I."

After singing and prayer, the Associotion adjourned to meet with Sardis church, Butler county, Ala., on Friday before third Sabbath in October, 1892.

JAMES M. ROBINSON, Moderator.

Malachi Riley, Clerk.

Church and individual pledges to aid the young ministers of the Zion Association to attend the Institute at East Lake this year:

Sardis church	$ 5 00	Conecuh River church	$10 00
Andalusia church	10 00	E. A. Brantley	5 00
Spring Hill church	2 50	Macedonia church	10 00
New Providence church	5 00	Fairmount church	10 00
M. A. George, Sr	5 00	Natural Bridge church	5 00
Shady Grove church	5 00	Malachi Riley	5 00
Chappel Hill church	5 00	John J. Deens	1 00
Mt. Gilead church	2 00	Zebulon Terry	1 00
Hopewell church	2 00	H. A. Mason	1 00
Bethany church	5 00	Miss Emma Arm	1 00
Total			$95 50

The following delegates were in attendance:

FIRST DISTRICT.

Fairmount—Zebulon Terry, H. A. Mason, A. G. Atkison, J. M. Watson and C. A. Mason.
Loango—J. M. Hildreth.
Hopewell—C. S. Thomason, W. D. Brooks.
Mobley Creek—J. I. Hassell, A. J. Hassell.
Conecuh River—G. E. Hicks, R. R Pajett, J. A. Hart and J. W. Cross.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Zion—James Smith and Easley Kilpatrick.
Friendship—J. L. Locke, M. G. Duke and B. F. Watson.
Sardis—James Johnson, C. T. Pitts and J. F. Pitts.
Spring Hill—B. J. Newton and J. W. Sims.
Mt. Olive—J. Rainer, John Brannon.

THIRD DISTRICT.

Bethany—S. W. Raley, James Raley, A. P. Brown, E. Patterson and L. M. Thomason.
Oak Grove—W. B. Brogden, Wm. Odom and W. F. Odom.
Andalusia—J M. Robinson and Malachi Riley.
Salem—T. J. Brown.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

Shiloh—Moses A George, Sr.
Shady Grove—N. R Stewart.
Chappel Hill—P. D. Bulger.
New Providence—C. C. Lenhart and J. A. Davis.
Macedonia—J. M. Sweney and C. H. Elliott.
Mt. Gilead—T. R. Meadows, Z. T. Carter.
Natural Bridge—J. T. Thomason.

The following standing committees were appointed by the Moderator:

On Missions—Cyrus A. O'Neal, Chairman; James Smith and Zebulon Terry.
On Ministerial Education—Malachi Riley, Chairman; C. S. Thomason, James Johnson and Moses A. George, Sr.
On Sabbath Schools—George E. Hicks, Chairman; R. M. Clay and J. H. Chapman.
On Books, Literature and Periodicals—P. D. Bulger, Chairman; James Brannon and J. T. Thomason.

The following are appointed Sabbath School Agents, viz:

First District—A. J. Hassell, E. T. Albritton and J. M. Watson.
Second District—James Smith, James Johnson and John Brannon.
Third District—W. A. Justice, T. R. Meadows and J. L. Locke.
Fourth District—M. A. George, Sr.; R. M. Clary and J. A. Hart.

The following are the Ordained Ministers in the Zion Association and their post offices:

James M. Robinson	Andalusia, Ala.
L. M. Thomason	" "
H. L. Taylor	" "
S. W. Raley	" "
Wm. J. Moseley	" "
Martin V. Hare	" "
J. M. Smith	" "
John T. Thomason	Natural Bridge, Fla.
W. H. Joyner	Pontus, Ala.
S. J. Williamson	Aiken, Ala.
Benjamin Cooper	Johnston, Ala.
P. D. Bulger	Williams' Mill, Ala.

LICENTIATES.

J. M. Sweeney	Rome, Ala.
J. L. Henley	" "

The Association during the last associational year,

Received by baptism	49
Received by letter	35
Received by restoration	5
Total	89
Total membership reported	1147

LIST OF CHURCHES, CLERKS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

CHURCHES.	CLERK.	POST OFFICE.
FIRST DISTRICT.		
Fairmount	J. M. Derman	Red Level, Ala.
Loango	E. A. Brantley	Loango, Ala.
Hopewell	C. S. Thomason	Fairfield, Ala.
Mobley Creek	A. J. Hassell	Fairfield, Ala.
Conecuh	J. A. Hart	Conecuh River, Ala.
SECOND DISTRICT.		
Zion	E. L. Faison	Leon, Ala.
Friendship	J. L. Locke	Aiken, Ala.
Sardis	S. A. Hickman	Pigeon Creek, Ala.
Spring Hill	J. W. Sims	Pontus, Ala.
Mt. Olive	J. A. Smith	Pontus, Ala.
THIRD DISTRICT.		
Bethany	A. P. Brown	Andalusia, Ala.
Oak Grove	W. F. Odom	Shirley, Ala.
Andalusia	Cyrus A. O'Neal	Andalusia, Ala.
Salem	J. W. Little	Andalusia, Ala.
Mt. Gilead	Z. T. Carter	Valley Grove, Ala.
Harmony	Not represented	
FOURTH DISTRICT.		
Shiloh	Moses A. George, Sr	William's Mill, Ala.
Shady Grove	N. R. Stewart	Wood, Fla.
Chappel Hill	S. S. Leonard	Tabitha, Ala.
New Providence	Francis Leonard	Beda, Ala.
Pleasant Hill	Not represented	
New Hope	Not represented	
Macedonia	C. H. Elliott	Rome, Ala.
Natural Bridge	G. W. Meeks	Natural Bridge, Fla.

ABSTRACT OF FAITH, WITH PROOF TEXT.

ARTICLE I. We believe in one only true and living God—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.—1 John 5:7, "For there are three that bear record in Heaven, the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one."

ART. II. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.—Proof: 2 Timothy 3:16, 17: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, ond is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished nnto all good works."—2 Peter 1:21.

ART. III. We believe in the doctrine of eternal and particular election.—Proof: Ephesians 1:4, 5. "According as He hath chosen us in Him, before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love; having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ unto Himself according to the good pleasure of His will."—vs. 1:11, "In Whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will."

ART. IV. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.—Proof: Rom. 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life, through

Jesus Christ our Lord."—12th verse, "Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

ART. V. We believe in man's incapacity to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by any exertion of his own free will—Proof: John 6:44, 45: "No man can come to me except the Father which hath sent me draw him, and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the Prophets, and they shall be all taught of God. Every man, therefore, that hath heard and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto Me."—Romans 11: 6; Eph. 2:1-9.

ART. VI. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.—Proof: 2 Corinthians 5:21: "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."—Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:13, 14.

ART. VII. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit.—Proof: John 6:37, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me, and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." 2 Tim. 1:9, "Who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, given us in Christ Jesus before the world began."

ART. VIII. We believe that saints shall persevere in grace, and never finally fall away.—Proof: John 10:28-30, "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and none is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

ART. IX. We believe that baptism and the Lord s Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ; that true believers are the only subjects for these ordinances, and that immersion only is baptism.—Proof: Colos. 2:12, "Buried with him in baptism, where also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead." Acts 8:38, "And he commanded the chariot to stand still; and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him."

ART. X. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment.—Proof: Job 19:26, 27, "And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God; whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me."

ART. XI. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and that the joys of the righteous will be eternal.—Proof: Matthew 25: 46, "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal."

ART. XII. We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinances of the gospel, except one who has been regularly called, and ordained to the work by the imposition of hands of a presbytery.—Proof: 1 Tim. 4: 50, "For it is sanctified by the Word of God and prayer;" 5:22, "Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins. Keep thyself pure."

APPENDIX "A."

Your committee on Missions, beg leave to make the following as their report:

Brethren, we are commanded as witnesses to testify for Christ to the uttermost parts of the earth, and as we find that there are yet thousands, in heathenism, who have never heard of Christ, and souls are starving for the bread of life; and in addition to the demands from India, Africa, China, Cuba and other nations, there are many destitutions in the bounds of the Zion Association; and the cries are coming from every direction, "Come and help us."

Brethren, if we are what we profess to be, and what God would have us be, how can we stand still. Let us make greater sacrifices. Pray God to enable us, by our united efforts and self-sacrificing spirits, to put in action every means of grace possible, and aid us in devising such plans as may supply the destitution, not only at home but abroad.

Respectfully submitted, JOHN T. THOMASON, Ch'n.

APPENDIX "B."

The great and learned Apostle Paul exhorts the preachers to "study to show themselves approved unto God, workmen that needeth not to be ashamed." From this inspired counsel it is clear that study and the accumulation of knowledge is essentially necessary to the proper preaching of the Gospel. It is manifestly the duty of every preacher to do his utmost in preparing himself for his life work. If he cannot have the benefit of an education, the next best thing is to secure good books, in addition to God's work, and study them and thus store his mind with needed information. Many of our best preachers educated themselves in this way. While we have no young brethren in our midst in condition to go to school we have several that need books, and we recommend that this Association raise a fund to be expended in supplying these young brethren in this respect.

Respectfully submitted,

M. A. George, Sr., Ch'n.

APPENDIX "C."

Your committee on Sabbath Schools find ten schools reported, showing an increase of five since the last meeting of this body. While we are gratified at this increase of interest manifested by the churches, we know we are not doing what we should. We recommend, therefore, that pastors deliver lectures to their churches quarterly, and endeavor to organize them and press upon them the importance of this great work, and that the Moderator appoint two Sabbath School agents in each district in aid to the pastors in organizing working schools in each church in this Association; and we sincerely pray that at the next meeting of this body there will be reported a flourishing Sabbath School in each church.

Respectfully submitted,

G. E. Hicks, Ch'n.

APPENDIX "D."

Your committee beg to make the following report:

That Elder J. T. Thomason preach the introductory sermon and P. D. Bulger, alternate, and that Elder J. M. Robinson preach the missionary sermon.

We also find three churches have called for this body to meet with them in our next session, Sardis, Butler county; Conecuh River and Mobley Creek, Covington county, Ala. Your committee recommend that our next session be held at Sardis church, Butler county, Ala., on Friday before the third Sabbath in October, 1892.

Respectfully submitted,

S. W. Raley, Ch'n.

APPENDIX "E."

We, your committee on Temperance, beg to make the following report:

We look upon intoxication as the curse of curses, and doing more injury to the cause of Christ and the destruction of the human family than all other evils. We would therefore recommend that earnest prayer and faithful and uncompromising discipline be the watchword in our churches, and by this means our churches can do much towards driving this mammoth evil from the bounds of this Association.

Respectfully submitted,

P. D. Bulger, Ch'n.

APPENDIX "F."

We, your committee, beg leave to report the following:

We recommend the Bible as the Book of Books, and should be read and used in Sabbath Schools in connection with sound Baptist literature, such as Kind Words series and the American Baptist Publication Society's.

We recommend the adoption of the Baptist Hymnal.

We further recommend that the brethren subscribe for and read the Alabama Baptist, published at Montgomery, Ala.

Respectfully submitted,

H. A. Mason, Ch'n.

APPENDIX "G."

Your committee on Finance makes the following report, viz:

State Missions received, including cash and vouchers	$ 79 68
Home Missions received, including cash and vouchers	18 95
Foreign Missions received, including cash and vouchers	19 00
Minute fund	26 75
Total amount	$144 38

All of which has been paid over to the Treasurer, Moses A. George, Sr.

Respectfully submitted,

Jno. W. Cross, Ch'n.

APPENDIX "H."

The following is the report of the Executive Committee:

Your committee had a meeting soon after your last meeting and employed Elders P. D. Bulger and Samuel W. Raley, the former to work in the southern portion of the Association and the latter in the northern portion. These two brethren agreed to work for $2 per day, while actually engaged in the missionary work. Brother Bulger has reported eighteen days work, traveled 286 miles, preached twenty-three sermons; we are due him $36, less $10 heretofore paid.

Brother Raley has reported eleven days work, traveled 154 miles, preached thirteen sermons, baptized two, families visited, sixteen; amount due him $22.

Respectfully submitted,

M. A. George, Sr., Ch'n.

APPENDIX "I."—REPORT OF TREASURER.

To amount on hand from last year		$ 44 45
To amount received from Finance Committee		144 38
To amount received from Sabbath collection		25 26
Total amount		$214 09
CR.		
By amount paid Missionaries, Bulger and Raley	$58 00	
By amount paid Clerk for minutes	36 75	
By amount vouchers taken up	32 80	$127 55
Balance cash on hand		$ 86 54

Respectfully submitted,

M. A. George, Sr., Ch'n.

214 9
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